



# COBYS Connection

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*Motivated by Christian faith, COBYS Family Services educates, supports, and empowers children and adults to reach their full potential.*

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**COBYS Connection is an occasional e-newsletter of COBYS Family Services. Tell us what you think, let us know if you experienced technical difficulties, or unsubscribe by e-mailing [Don Fitzkee](#).**

## COBYS Bike & Hike Sets Sights on \$100,000 Goal

\$100,000 and 600 participants. Those are the ambitious goals for the 15th annual COBYS Bike & Hike, which will take place on Sunday, September 11, at the Lititz Church of the Brethren. Events begin at 1:30 p.m. COBYS' signature event, the Bike & Hike includes a three-mile walk through Lititz, 10- and 25-mile bicycle rides on rural roads around Lititz, and the 60-mile Dutch Country Motorcycle Ride, which this year travels north through scenic Lancaster and Lebanon Counties.

Participants choose their event and either pay a registration fee or obtain sponsors. The registration fee is \$25 per person, with a \$5 discount for those who pre-register. Pre-registration is not required. Each participant receives a free t-shirt (while supplies last), ice cream and refreshments, and an opportunity to win one of dozens of door prizes donated by area businesses. Those who raise certain levels of support can earn additional prizes. Junior and senior high youth groups who raise \$1,500 or more win a free gym and pizza night. In addition, grand prizes donated by area businesses will be awarded to the top three fundraisers.

Last year persistent rain dampened the event and limited attendance to 298 people, but generous giving from business sponsors and supporters still totaled nearly \$88,000, a new record.

"In order to gross \$100,000 this year," says event planner Don Fitzkee, "we were counting on strong business support to get us started. And we were not disappointed." Businesses have pledged some 50 percent more than last year's record amount. "Now we're counting on participants and their sponsors to get us the rest of the way there." All proceeds raised by participants and sponsors benefit the ministries of COBYS Family Services, including adoption and foster care services; counseling for children, adults, and families; and family life education programs offered in partnership with church, school, and community groups.

For the first time, this year donors will be able to donate on site via credit card. Also new, WJTL FM 90.3 will broadcast live from the event.

Brochures will be mailed to COBYS supporters by August 1. For more information, visit our [website](#), or contact Don Fitzkee at 800-452-6517 or [don@cobys.org](mailto:don@cobys.org). Click here for the [event brochure](#) and additional [sponsor sheets](#).

## Palmyra Area Counseling Center Moving to First UM

COBYS Family Services' [Palmyra Area Counseling Center](#) will relocate to Palmyra First United Methodist Church, 520 E. Birch St., Palmyra, by early August. For its first two decades the center was housed in a property provided by the Palmyra Church of the Brethren. During a June speaking engagement, COBYS Executive Director Mark Cunningham thanked the Palmyra Brethren for being generous hosts to the center and presented them with a welcome mat to use to extend a warm welcome to the next occupant. (The church will be using the building for other ministry purposes.) The center is a joint ministry of COBYS and the Palmyra Area Cooperating Churches, providing individual, family, and marital therapy on a sliding scale basis. COBYS looks forward to beginning a new relationship with First United Methodist.

## By the Numbers

During the recently completed fiscal year, COBYS finalized two infant adoptions and 27 adoptions of foster children, along with additional services to 132 foster children and 34 foster/adoptive resource families; provided 20,576 days of care for 98 foster children; served 80 children from 46 families at our Permanency Unit; provided 2,110 hours of therapy at three counseling centers; and led 27 courses and 71 workshops for 1,273 adults, teens, and children in partnership with 34 churches, schools, and community groups. Look for a more complete annual report in the next issue of *Fostering Hope*.